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UNDERDOG COMICS™

399¢

THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR!

UNDERDOG™

IS HERE!

UNDERDOG IN "SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE"
Written by Batton Lash
Illustrated by Bill Galvan
Inks by Bob Smith
Colors & Letters by Dan Conner

THE WORLD OF COMMANDER MCBRAGG
Written by James Kuhoric
Illustrated by Adrian Ropp

GO GO GOPHERS IN "TOPSY TEPEE"
Written by James Kuhoric
Illustrated by Adrian Ropp

UNDERDOG IN "RINGER DINGER"
Originally presented in Underdog #1, July 1970
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UNDERDOG! IT'S THE POLICE CHIEF! HE NEEDS YOU DOWNTOWN TO FIGHT CRIME!
NOT TODAY, SHOESHINE BOY! I'VE MADE MY DECISION- I'M TAKING THE DAY OFF TO WATCH MYSELF ON TELEVISION!
UNDERDOG
WHAT'S THIS?? UNDERDOG RELAXING, RATHER THAN FIGHTING CROOKS?
LOLLY-GAGGING INSTEAD OF BATTLING THUGS?
AND AREN'T SHOESHINE BOY AND UNDERDOG ONE AND THE SAME?? IMPOSSIBLE YOU SAY?
DON'T WORRY! ALL YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE REVEALED IN THE TALE WE CALL . . .
SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE!
STORY- BATTON LASH PENCILS- BILL GALVAN INKS- BOB SMITH COLORS & LETTERS- DAN CONNER

PART 1
ONE OF THE MOST LOVEABLE AND HUMBLE CHARACTERS WAS SHOESHINE BOY . . .
YOU'RE LOVEABLE AND HUMBLE, SHOESHINE BOY!
THANK YOU, SIR!

BUT, WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES . . .
HARK!

BRRRRRIIIIINNNGG!
WE GOT THE LOOT-
SO LET'S LAM OUTTA HERE!
GOTCHA, BOSS!

SORRY, SIR! I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHINE YOUR OTHER SHOE. . . EXCUSE ME!
THAT'S OKAY- BUT NO TIP!

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, THERE'S A NEARBY PHONE BOOTH LEFT OVER FROM THE 1960'S . . .
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR . . .

BOOM!

UNDERDOG IS HERE!

QUICK! TO THE GETAWAY CAR-
RIFF RAFF! LOOK-

- IT'S UNDERDOG
IT'S ONE FOR THE MONEY, ONE FOR THE SHOW . . .

. . . HIP, HIP, HIP, AND AWAY I GO!
OOF!
OWWW!

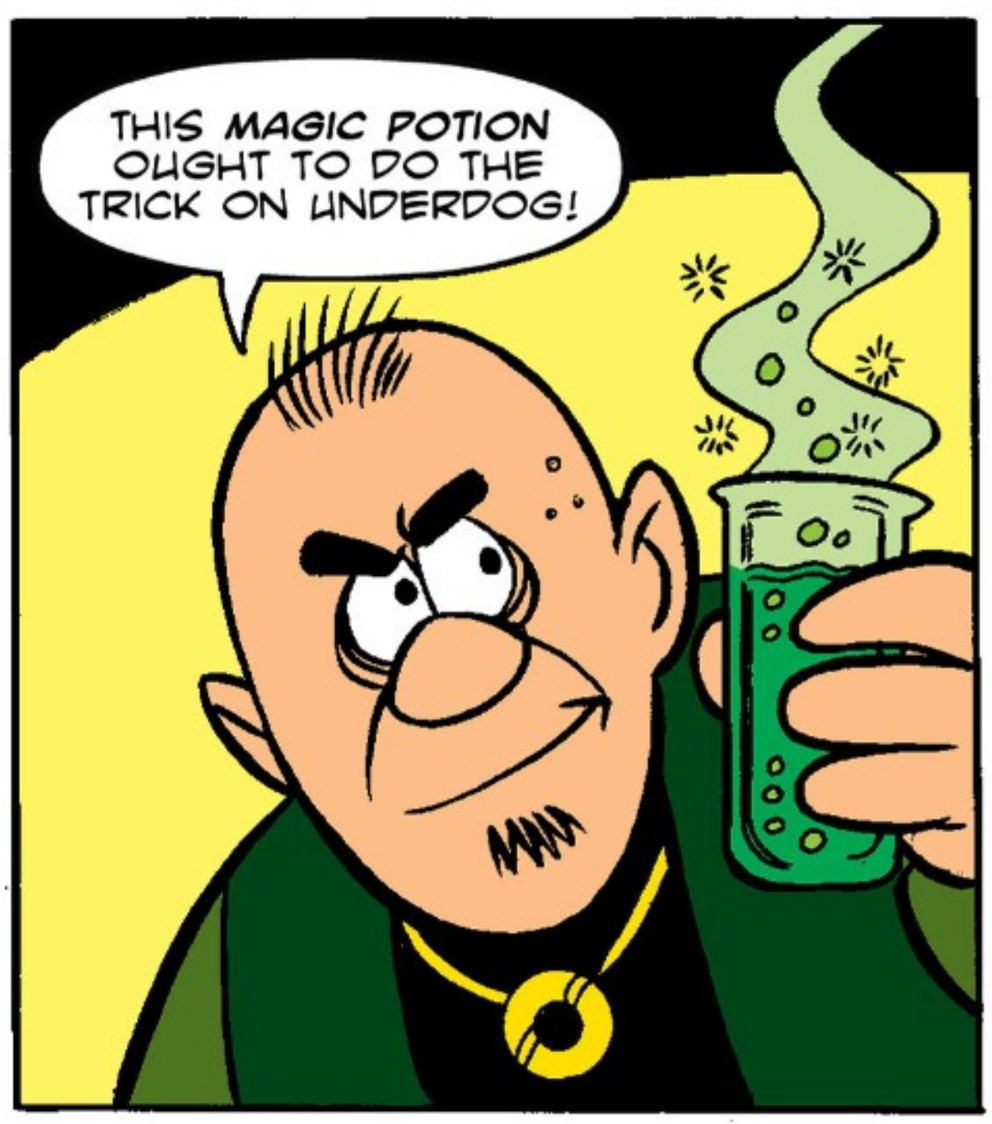
ONE, TWO, I SEE . . .
. . . I THOUGHT THERE WAS THREE!

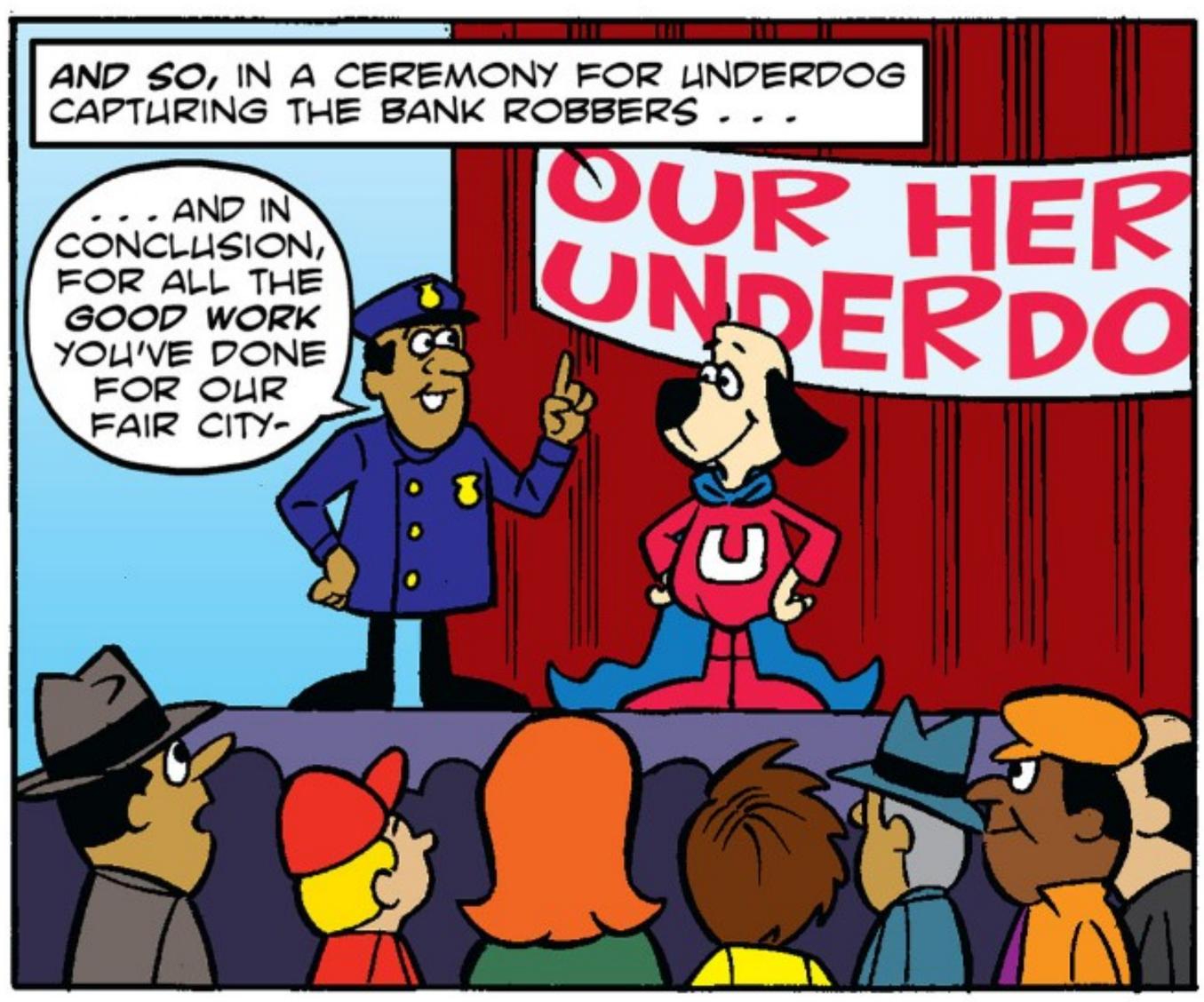
OH, WELL! YOU FELLAS MAY MAKE BAIL . . .

. . . IN THE MEANTIME, YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL!
YAY, UNDERDOG!
BOO, UNDERDOG!

ZOOOOM!
RIFF RAFF'S GANG CALLED ME AN INEPT WARLOCK! BUT I'LL SHOW THEM! I'M GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO DEFEATS UNDERDOG!!

IN HIS SECRET LAB, THE WEIRD WARLOCK PLOTS TO UNDERMINE UNDERDOG . . .
BY GEORGE, I THINK I HAVE IT!


THIS MAGIC POTION OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK ON UNDERDOG!


AND SO, IN A CEREMONY FOR UNDERDOG CAPTURING THE BANK ROBBERS . . .
. . . AND IN CONCLUSION, FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR FAIR CITY-
OUR HER
UNDERDO

- WE BEQUEATH YOU WITH THE KEY TO THE CITY!
MODESTY ASIDE, I'M NEVER REALLY A GONER-
-BUT THIS IS QUITE THE HONOR!

YOU LOOK THIRSTY, YOUNG MAN! PLEASE TAKE THIS DELICIOUS MILKSHAKE!
UH- I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD, UNDERDOG- !
NONSENSE, CHIEF! THANK YOU, MADAM- IT LOOKS QUITE YUMMY . . .

. . . FOR MY EMPTY TUMMY!

UNDERDOG! THERE'S A HEIST IN PROGRESS AT THE JEWELRY STORE OVER ON THE CORNER OF COVINGTON AND HARRIS!
HARK!

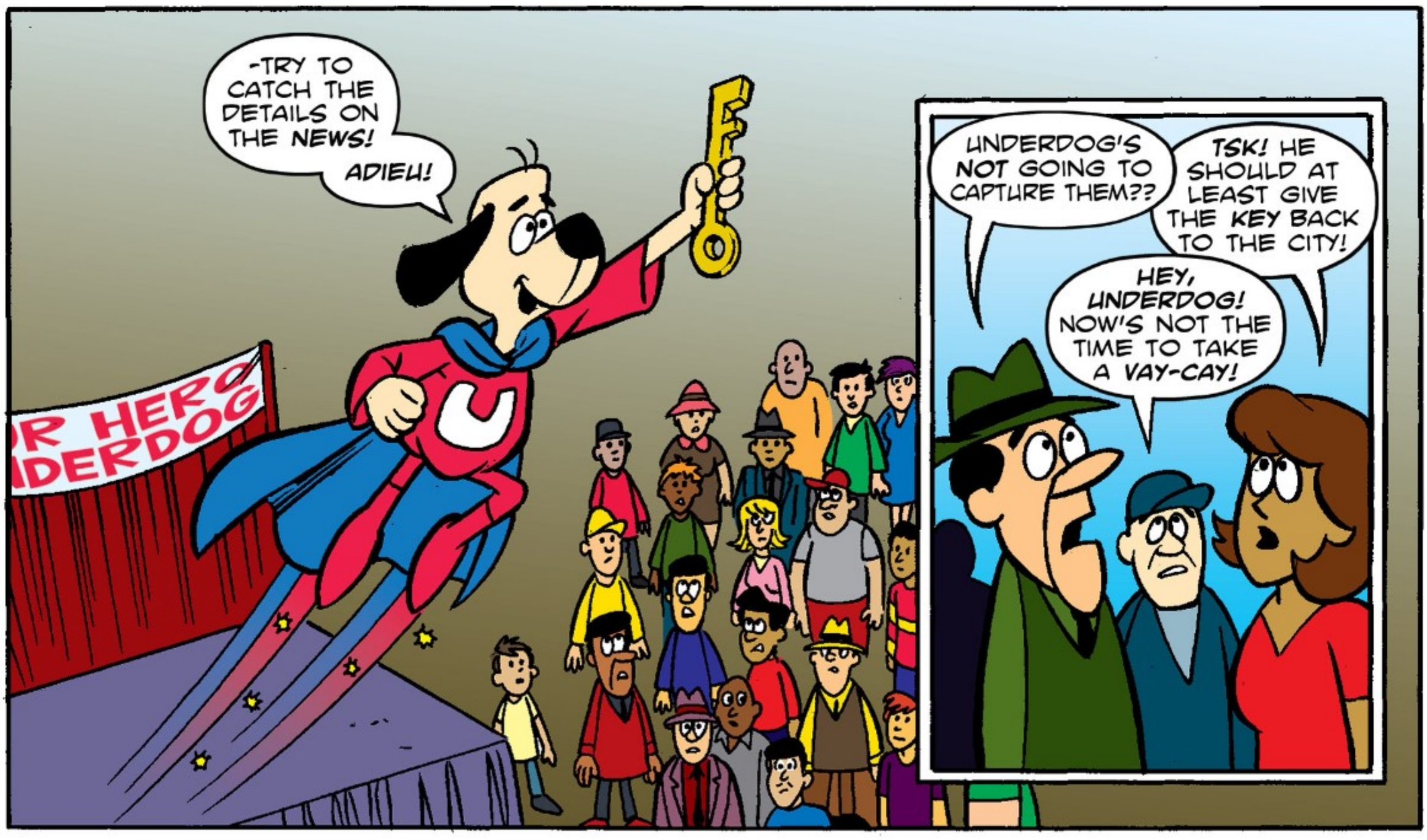
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT-

- BUT I THINK I'LL SIT THIS ONE OUT!

UNDERDOG!! WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU??
NOW, CHIEF, BETTER TO REBUFF, RATHER THAN TO RESORT TO FISTICUFFS!
HA! MY "LITTLE OLD LADY" RUSE WORKED- BIG TIME!

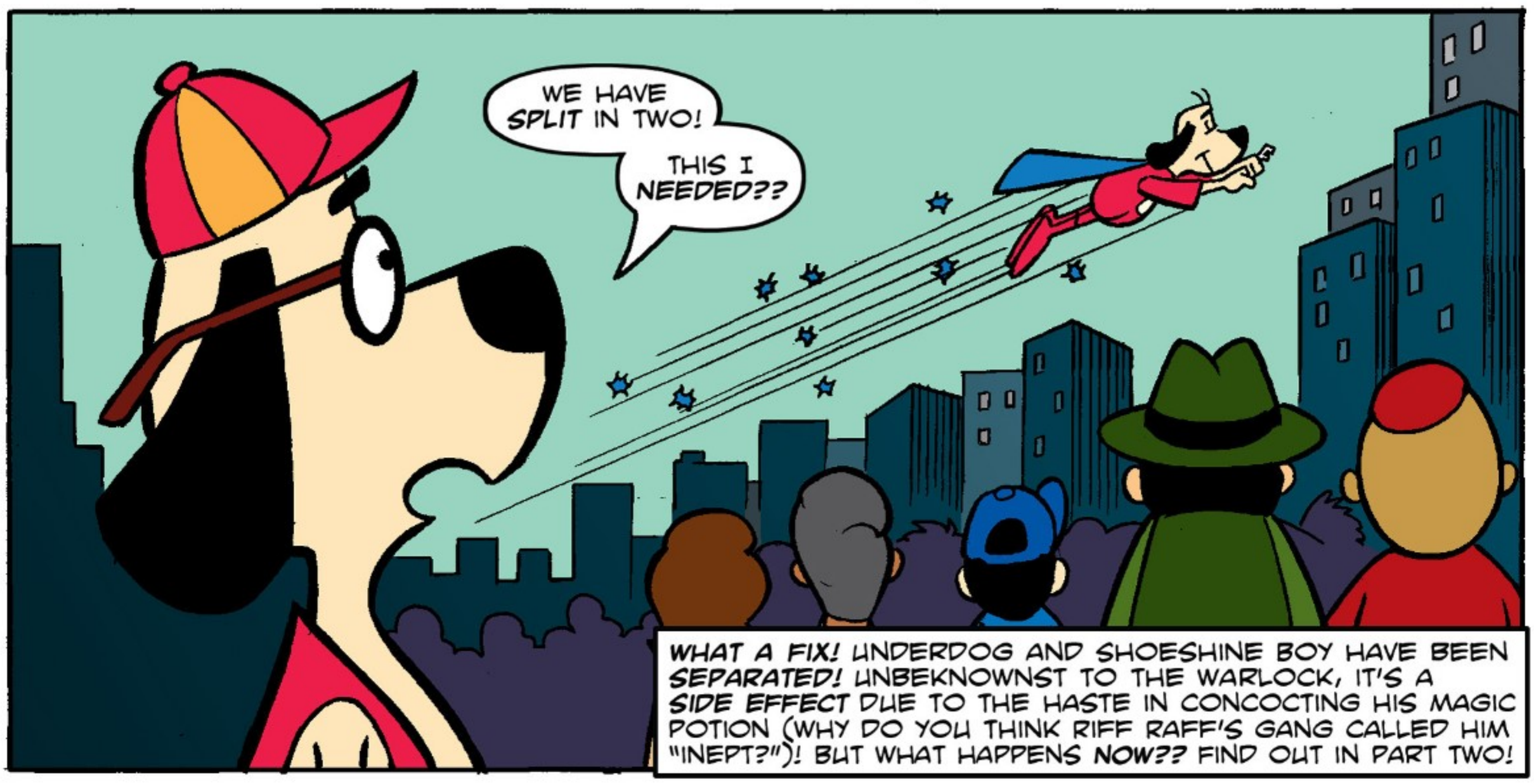
RIFF RAFF'S GANG WILL EAT THEIR WORDS, CALLING ME INEPT!
I CAN NOW CHANGE BACK TO THE WARLOCK-

"- WHILE UNDERDOG REMAINS PERMANENTLY TRANSFORMED!"
BEGORRA, UNDERDOG! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW??
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO-


-TRY TO CATCH THE DETAILS ON THE NEWS!
ADIEU!
UNDERDOG'S NOT GOING TO CAPTURE THEM??
TSK! HE SHOULD AT LEAST GIVE THE KEY BACK TO THE CITY!
HEY, UNDERDOG! NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO TAKE A VAY-CAY!

AS AN ASTONISHED CITIZENRY WATCH AS THEIR HERO OF HEROES FLIES IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF THE JEWELRY THIEVES . . .

. . . THERE IS ONE PERSON WHO IS MORE ASTONISHED THAN ANYONE!
OMG-


WE HAVE SPLIT IN TWO!
THIS I NEEDED??
WHAT A FIX! UNDERDOG AND SHOESHINE BOY HAVE BEEN SEPARATED! UNBEKNOWNST TO THE WARLOCK, IT'S A SIDE EFFECT DUE TO THE HASTE IN CONCOCTING HIS MAGIC POTION (WHY DO YOU THINK RIFF RAFF'S GANG CALLED HIM "INEPT?")! BUT WHAT HAPPENS NOW?? FIND OUT IN PART TWO!

THE WORLD OF COMMANDER McBRAGG

SICILY, ITALY! MOUNT ETNA, THE WORLD'S MOST ACTIVE VOLCANO. DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I QUENCHED ITS FIERY RAGE?

ERM, I BELIEVE I'M LATE FOR LUNCH...

IT WAS A TREACHEROUS CLIMB, BUT I WAS IN SEARCH OF THE NEARLY EXTINCT ***ICEBERGICUSMAXIMUS*** PLANT WHICH GROWS ONLY AND THE MOUTH OF ACTIVE VOLCANOES.

ONCE I LOCATED THE ELUSIVE SPROUT, I COMMENCED MAKING TEA WITH THE HERBS. IT'S WELL KNOWN AMONG EXPLORERS THAT THIS RESULTS IN THE COOLEST AND MOST REFRESHING BREW ON EARTH.

SUDDENLY THE ***GREAT MAW*** OF THE ANGRY BEAST OPENED AND IT SPEWED FORTH SMOKE AND FIRE AND DEADLY LAVA A THOUSAND FEET INTO THE SKY.

MY WORD! WHAT DID YOU DO, COMMANDER?

LUCKILY I HAVE EXTRA-LONG ELASTIC LACES IN MY HIKING BOOTS FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION.

I TIED THE END OF THE LACES TO THE ROCKY PERCH AND DOVE INTO THE MOUTH OF THE INFERNO WITH MY TRUSTY DRINK SHAKER IN HAND.

THINKING QUICKLY, I SHOVED A LARGE ICEBERGACUS CLIPPING INTO MY SHAKER AND SHOOK WITH ALL MY MIGHT. THE RESULTING CONCOCTION WAS SO COOLING THAT IT INSTANTLY FROZE THE LAVA AND I BUNGIE JUMPED OUT OF THERE WITH MY ELASTIC SHOE LACES.

WOULD YOU LIKE A SPOT OF TEA?

THANK YOU, COMMANDER. I'D LAVA ONE!

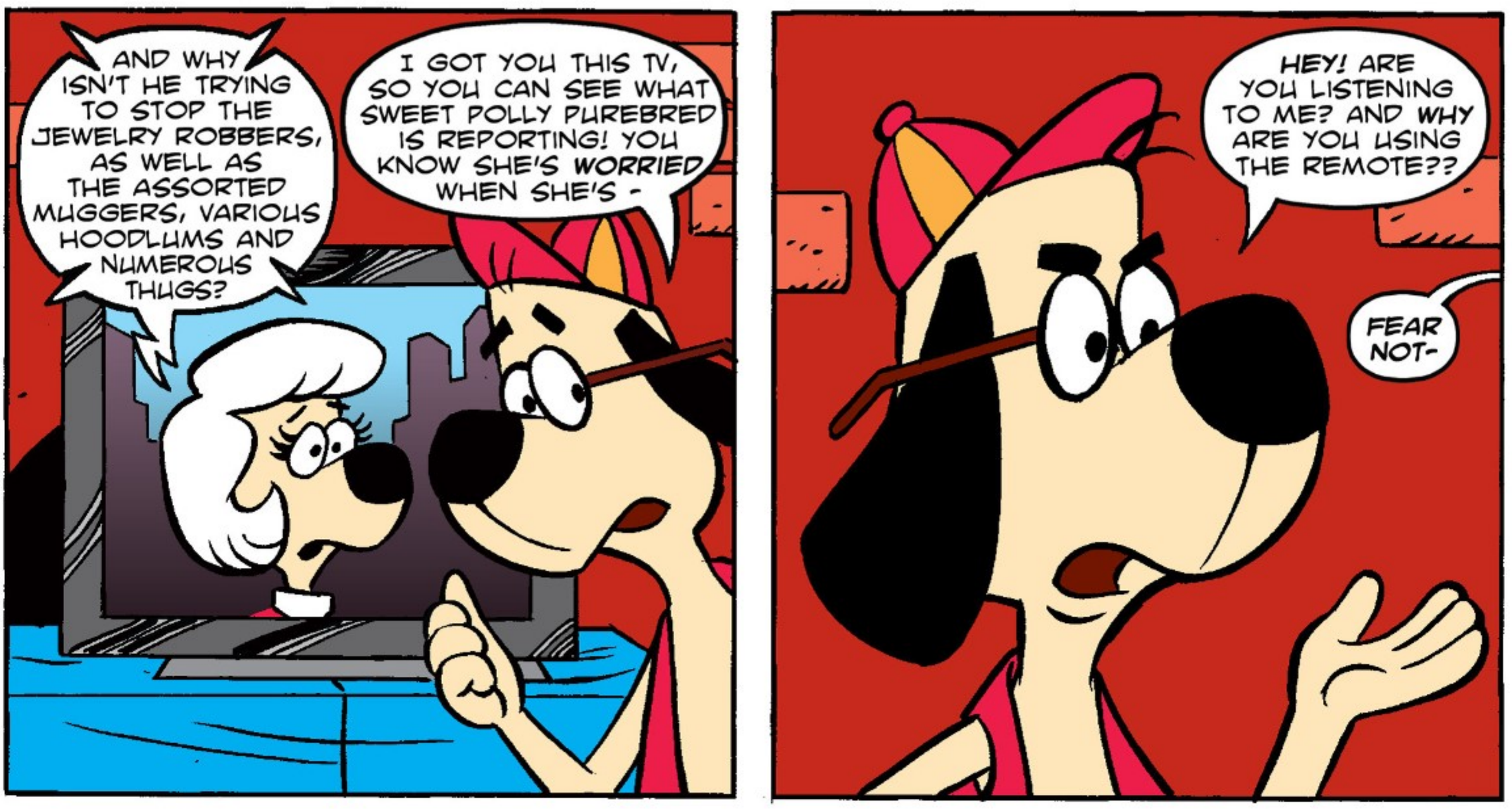
HRRMMPH, INDEED.

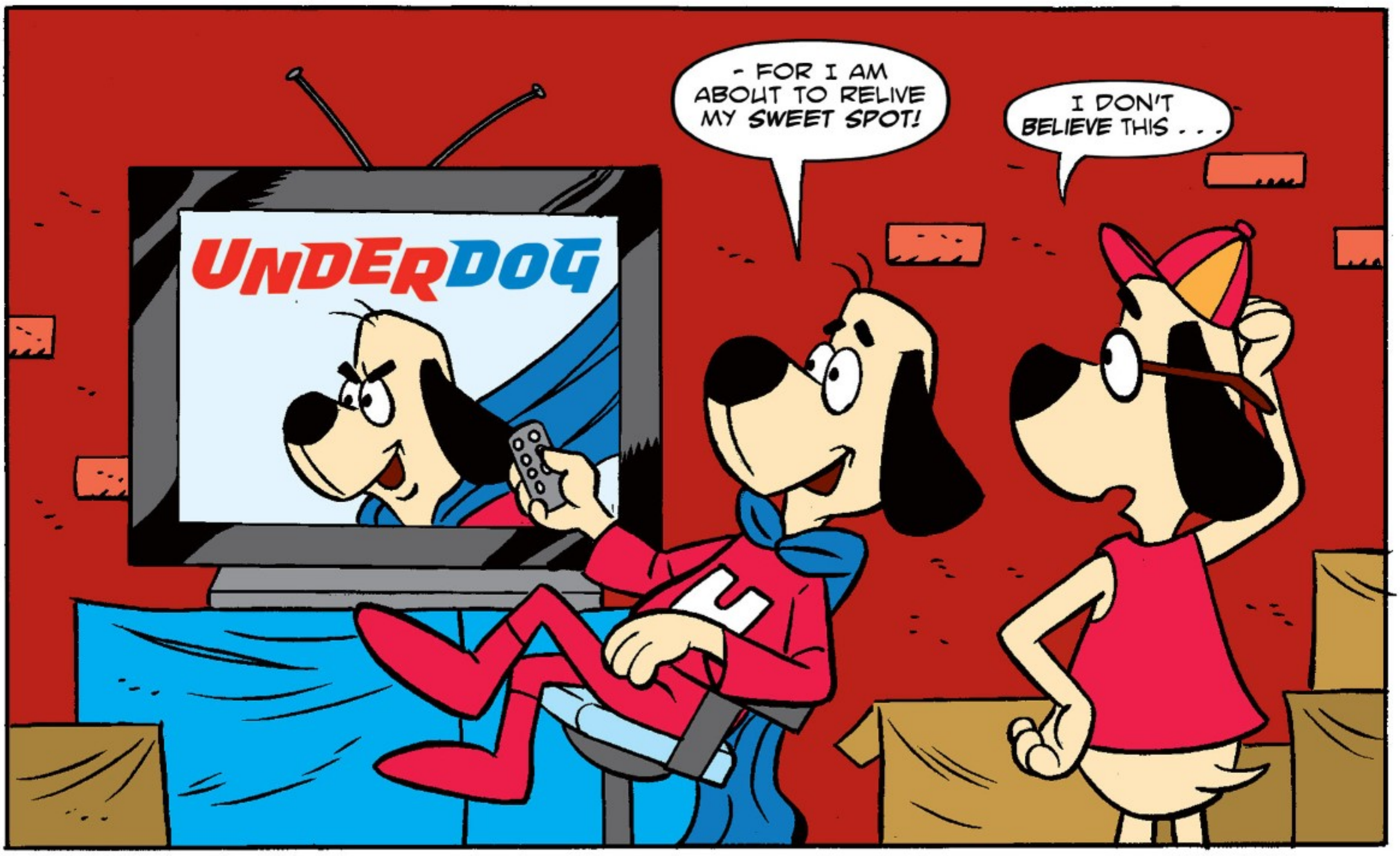
PART 2

AS THE DAYS GO BY, EVERYONE WONDERS ABOUT UNDERDOG- ESPECIALLY NEWSHOUND *SWEET POLLY PUREBRED* . . .

POLICE ARE *BAFFLED!*

CITIZENS ARE *CONFUSED!* WHAT'S GOT INTO *UNDERDOG-*

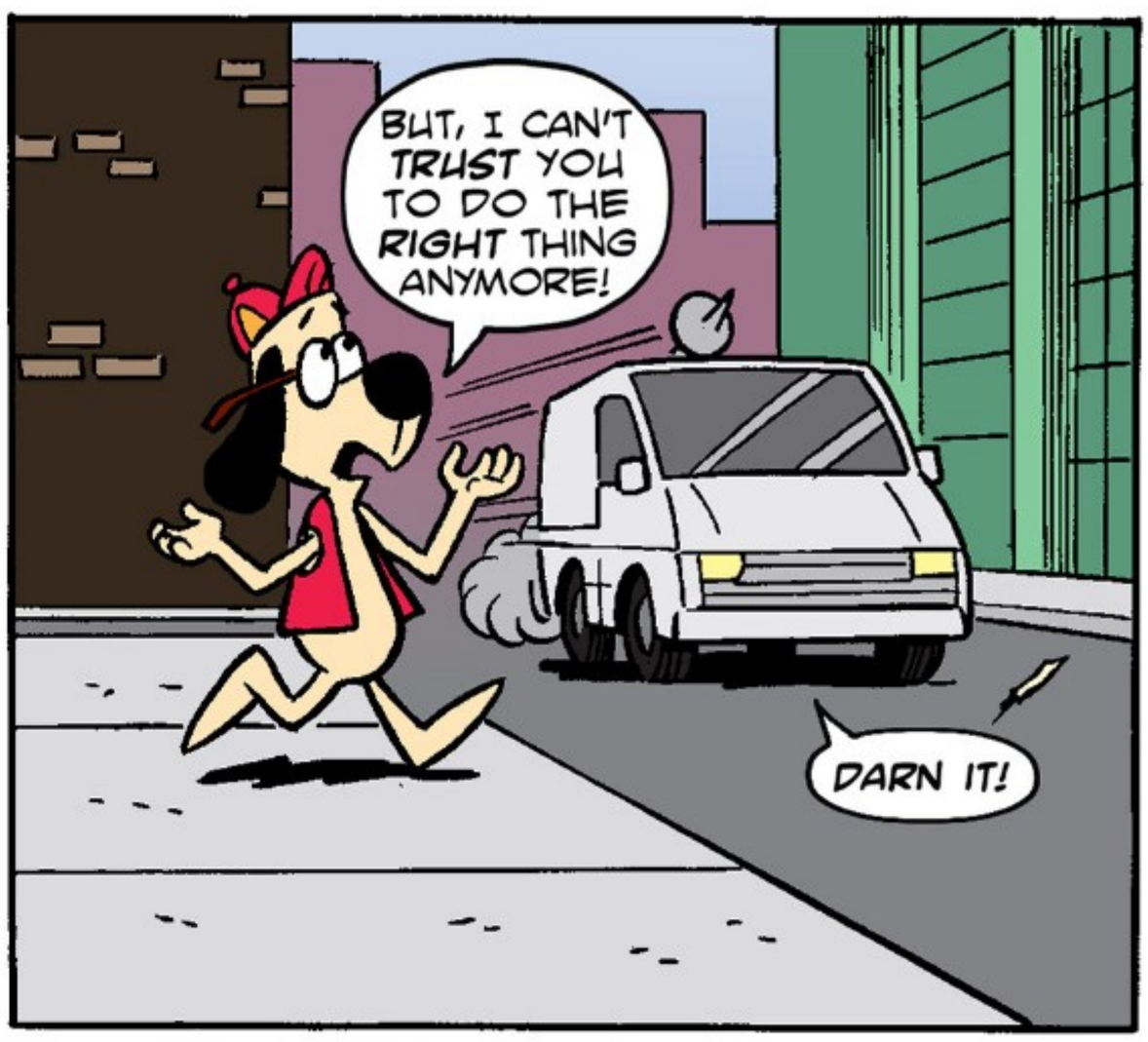



UNDERDOG
- FOR I AM ABOUT TO RELIVE MY SWEET SPOT!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS . . .

YOU'RE RESTING ON YOUR LAURELS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO US . . .
BUT I DO KNOW THAT I HAVE BECOME THE AGGRESSIVE ONE-

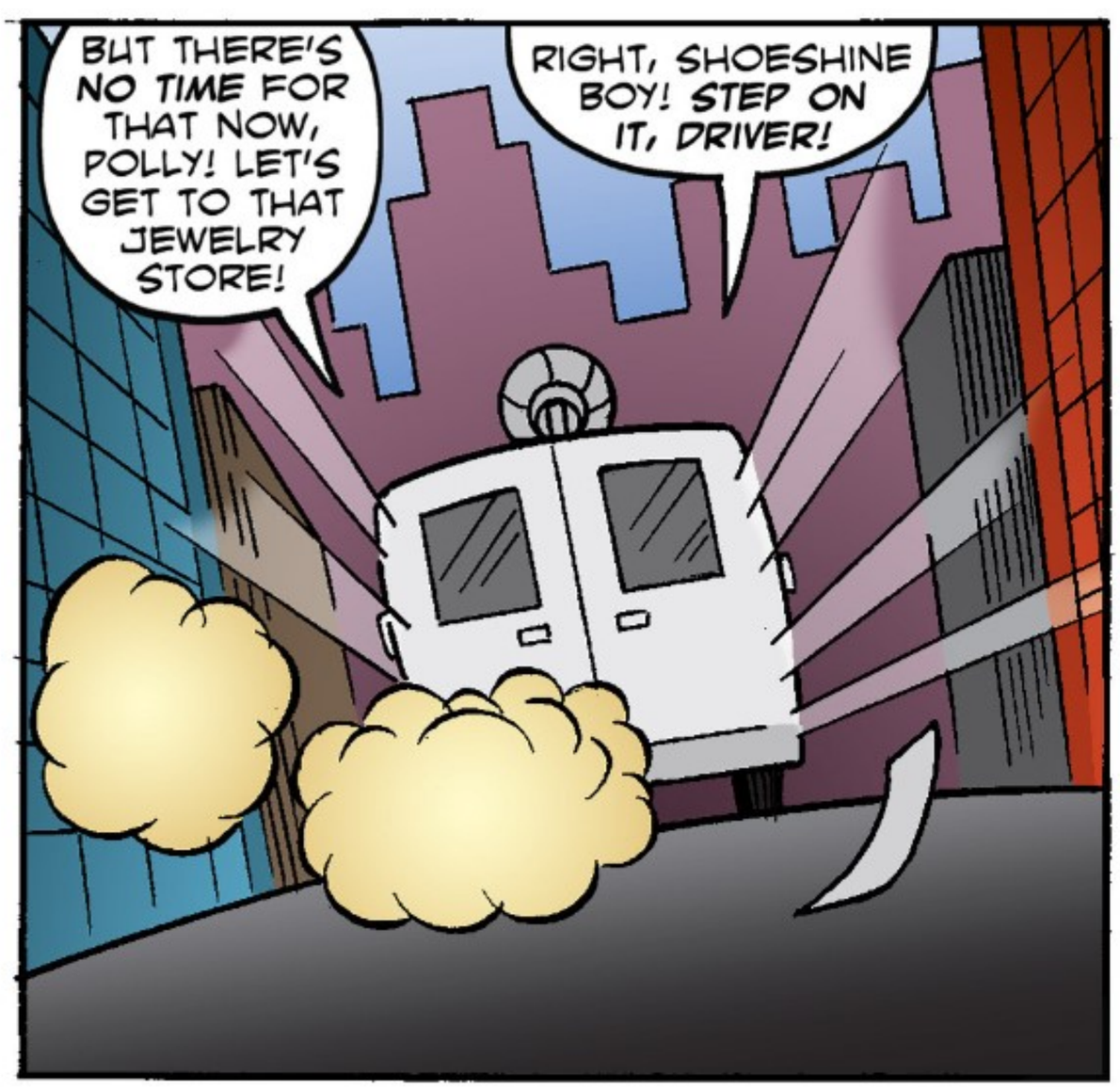
I DARE SAY-
- I CAN WATCH MYSELF ON TV ALL DAY!
- AND YOU'VE BECOME WISHY-WASHY!

AT LEAST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE JEWEL THIEVES!
SHOESHINE BOY, YOU'RE RIGHT-
-JUST HANG IN THERE AND SIT TIGHT!
BUT- BUT, WAIT-!


BUT, I CAN'T TRUST YOU TO DO THE RIGHT THING ANYMORE!
DARN IT!

THERE HE GOES! I WAS HOPING FOR AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE "KINDER, GENTLER" UNDERDOG!
HE'S ON HIS WAY TO THE JEWELRY STORE! IF WE HURRY, WE CAN CATCH UP WITH UNDERDOG!

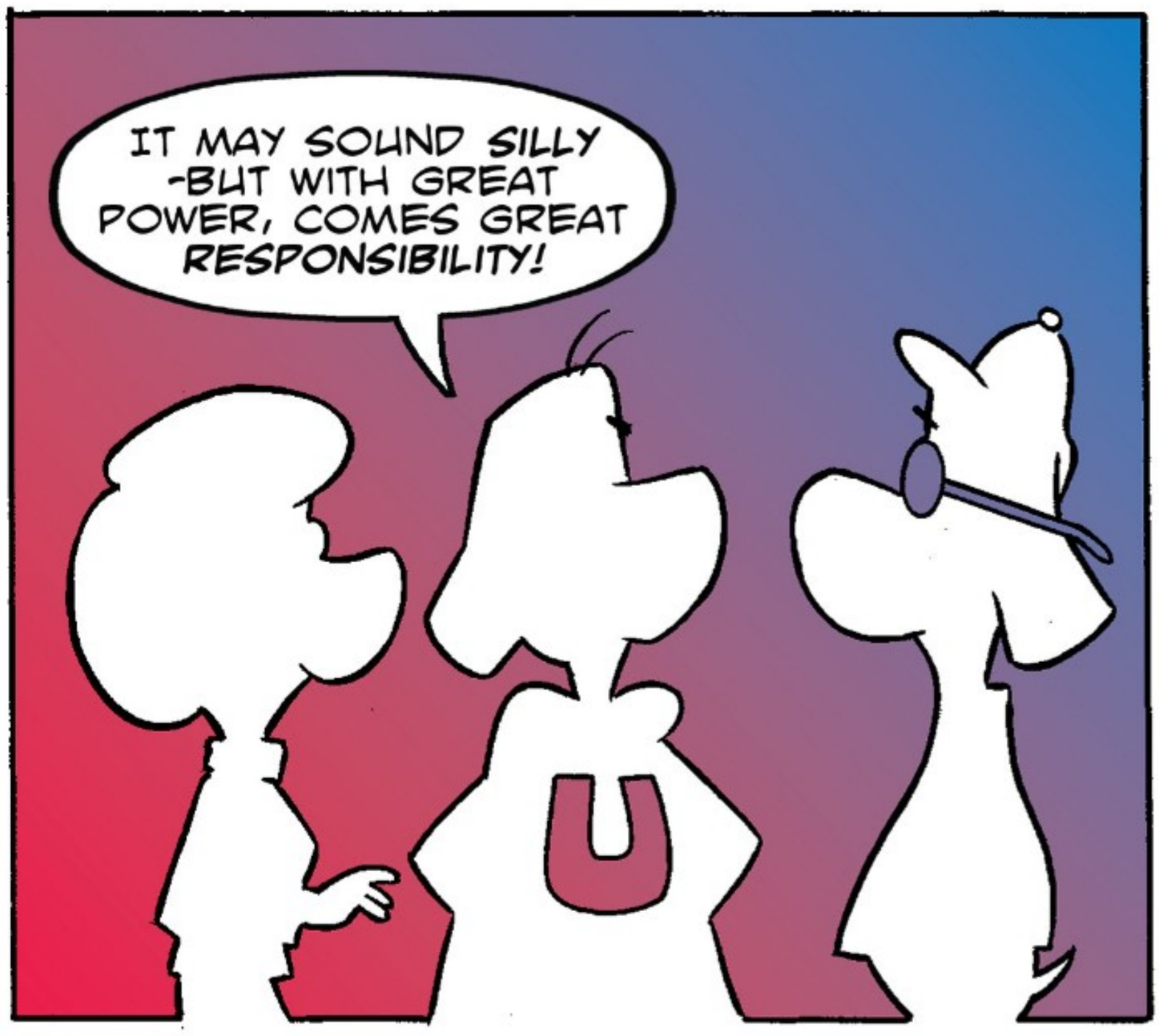
YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT YOU AND UNDERDOG WERE, WELL, REALLY THE SAME PERSON!
AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE, YOU WERE WRONG!
WHEW! THAT'S THE ONLY BREAK I GOT OUT OF THIS MESS!


BUT THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT NOW, POLLY! LET'S GET TO THAT JEWELRY STORE!
RIGHT, SHOESHINE BOY! STEP ON IT, DRIVER!

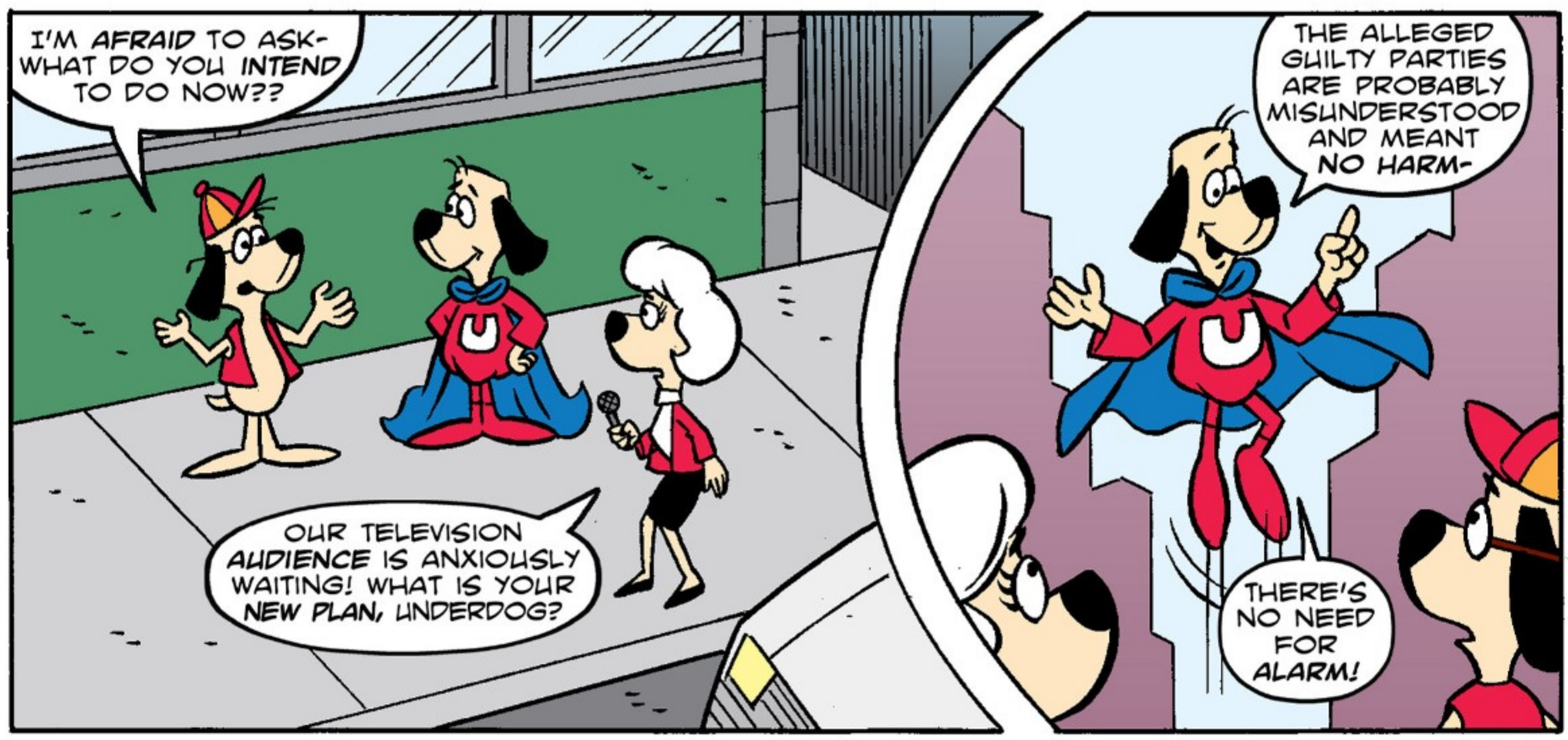
MOMENTS LATER, AS THE TV VAN PULLS UP TO THE JEWELRY STORE . . .

LOOK! UNDERDOG'S NABBED ONE OF THE THIEVES!

THEY SAY CRIMINALS ALWAYS RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME . . .


IT MAY SOUND SILLY -BUT WITH GREAT POWER, COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!

PUNCHING IS NOT THE WAY-
-THAT'S FOR YESTERDAY!


I'M AFRAID TO ASK- WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO NOW??
OUR TELEVISION AUDIENCE IS ANXIOUSLY WAITING! WHAT IS YOUR NEW PLAN, UNDERDOG?
THE ALLEGED GUILTY PARTIES ARE PROBABLY MISUNDERSTOOD AND MEANT NO HARM-
THERE'S NO NEED FOR ALARM!

FOLKS, YOU'VE HEARD THE NEW UNDERDOG! WHEN IT COMES TO COMPROMISE, IT'S FAR BETTER TO BEND, AND NOT BREAK!
FOLD IS MORE LIKE IT . . . !
UNDERDOG, POWERFUL, BUT HOPELESSLY WISHY-WASHY! SHOESHINE BOY, POWERLESS, BUT AGGRESSIVE! CAN IT GET ANY WORSE?? FIND OUT IN PART THREE!

GO GO GOPHERS IN "TOPSY TEPEE"

SAY, COLONEL, WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S THE LATEST WEAPON TO HELP US GET RID OF THOSE GOPHERS FOR GOOD, SERGEANT.

THIS IS A LAND TORPEDO! WE JUST SET THE TARGET KNOB HERE TO "GOPHER TEPEE" AND IT WILL DESTROY THE GOPHER'S ABODE.

PIRATE SHIP
OUTLAW CAMP
GOPHER TEPEE

I DON'T KNOW, COLONEL, IT SEEMS A MITE RISKY.

NONSENSE, SERGEANT! IT SAYS RIGHT HERE IN THE ARMY REGULATIONS THAT WITHOUT A PLACE TO LIVE THOSE PESKY GOPHERS WILL LEAVE GOPHER GULCH.

GOPHER TEPEE
Army Fort

THERE IT IS!

OFFICE

THE GOPHERS AND THEIR TEPEE! BULLY! BULLY!
CHAAAARRRGE!
REEEETREEAAAT!!!
KABOOOOOM!
THANKS FOR LETTING US STAY WITH YOU WHILE THE FORT GETS REBUILT.
I HOPE THE COLONEL'S NEXT SCHEME DOESN'T GET TORPEDOED TOO. JOIN US NEXT TIME TO FIND OUT.
THE END

PART 3

UNDERDOG IS ONCE AGAIN IN THE HEADLINES- BUT NOT IN A GOOD WAY . . .

CRIME SPREE!!
UNDERDOG UNDERGOES POLICY CHANGE!

UNDERDOG: CHAMPION OF CHUMPS!

HERO OF HEROES? BAH!

ON PATROL, OUR HERO IS BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF HOW UNPOPULAR HE'S BECOME . . .

YOU'D THINK WHEN THEY SEE ME, THE KINDLY CITIZENS WOULD CHEER-

- BUT ALL I HEAR FROM THEM IS JEERS!

BOO!

GET LOST!

GIVE THE KEY BACK TO THE CITY, YA BUM!

HOW BLISSFULLY UNAWARE IS UNDERDOG ABOUT THE UNPOPULARITY OF HIS ACTIONS? HE EVEN APPROACHES THE *UNDERWORLD* WITH AN *OFFER* THEY CAN'T REFUSE!

. . . IF YOU PROMISE TO RETURN THE *CASH*, THE BANK WILL SETTLE YOUR *HASH!*

I PROMISE!

MAYBE THAT *REALLY* WASN'T YOUR CAR, BUT IT'S NOT WORTH THE *HEADACHE* IF YOU BOYS MADE A *MISTAKE!*

WINK!

WINK!

YOU TRIED TO PILFER YOUR NEIGHBOR'S 54 INCH TV? WELL, *SHARE, SHARE,* THAT'S *FAIR!*

DAT'S WHUT I SAY, UNDERDAWG!

AND WHAT OF THE EVIL *WEIRD WARLOCK?* HE HAS BEEN BUSY AMASSING AN *ARMY* OF HOODLUMS, THUGS, AND THIEVES!

WITH UNDERDOG'S WISHY-WASHINESS, THE TIME TO STRIKE IS *NOW-*

- AND THIS TOWN IS *OURS!!*

HA HA HA HA HA!

NEEDLESS TO SAY, SWEET POLLY PUREBRED AND SHOESHINE BOY ARE ESPECIALLY NOT TOO HAPPY WITH THE RECENT UNDERDOG EVENTS . . .

SIGH! OH WHERE, OH WHERE, HAS MY UNDERDOG GONE??

I WISH HE GOT HIS GUMPTION BACK . . . AND HIS *BACKBONE!*

SIGH!

IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMEWAY WE COULD *REVERSE* WHATEVER HAPPENED TO UNDERDOG!

MEANWHILE, THE WEIRD WARLOCK'S LARGE GANG GATHERS IN FRONT OF THE BIG BANK OF MONEY . . .

BIG BANK OF MONEY

GET READY, BOYS! WE'RE GONNA BE WEALTHY BEYOND BELIEF!

NOT SO FAST-

- YOU'RE ALL COMING WITH ME!

HEY! UNDERDOG IS RENEGING ON HIS DEALS!

I KNEW WE COULDN'T TRUST HIM!!

BUT BOSS- IT'S TOO CROWDED TO SHOOT ANYONE . . . WE MIGHT HIT A THUG, A HOODLUM OR CROOK!

AND SO, WITHOUT THE USE OF FIREARMS, THE FORCES OF EVIL ARE EASILY DEFEATED! BUT THERE'S STILL ONE LEFT . . .

POW! OOF! SOK! BIFF!

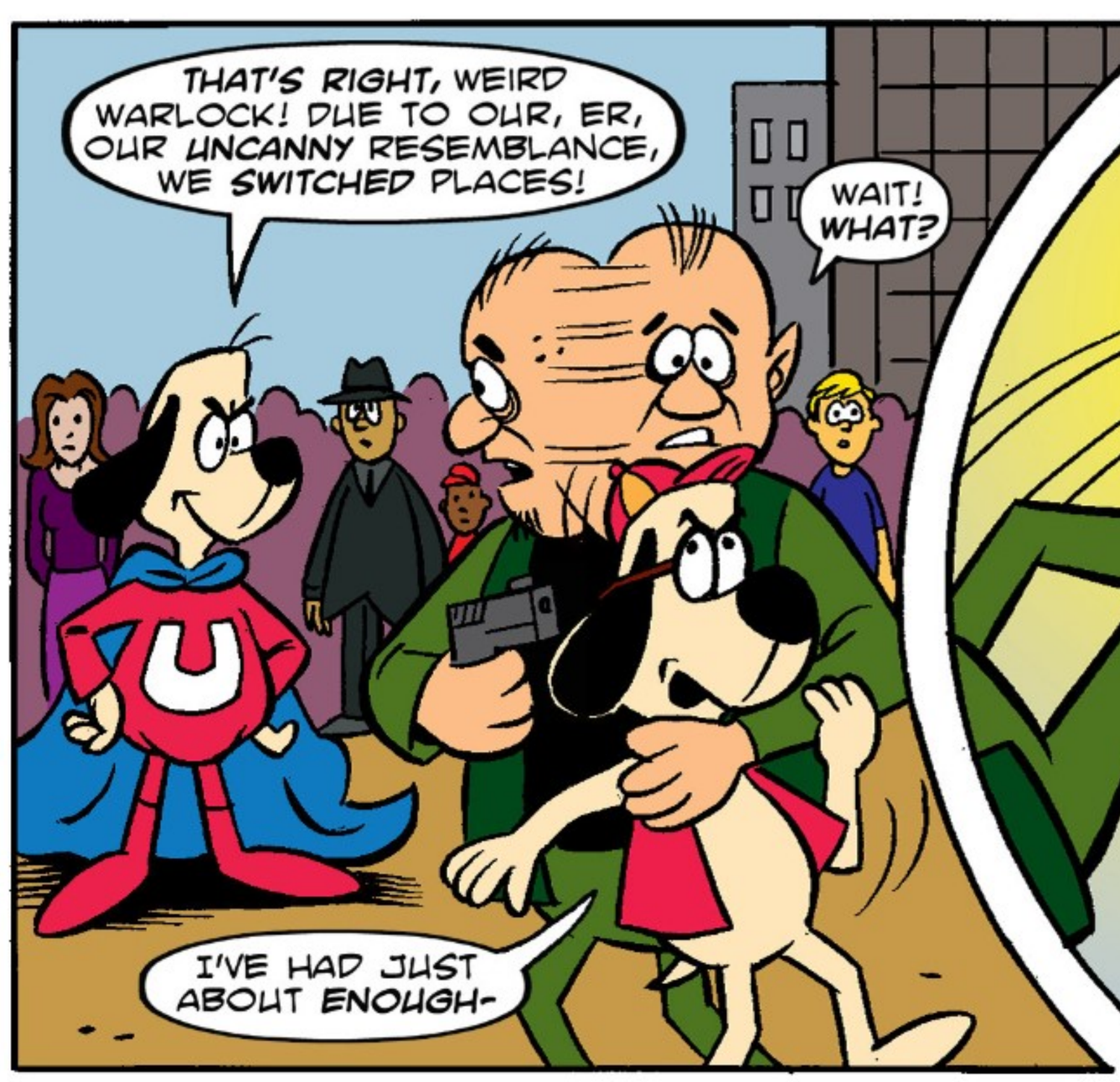
I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE UNDERDOG SEES ME!

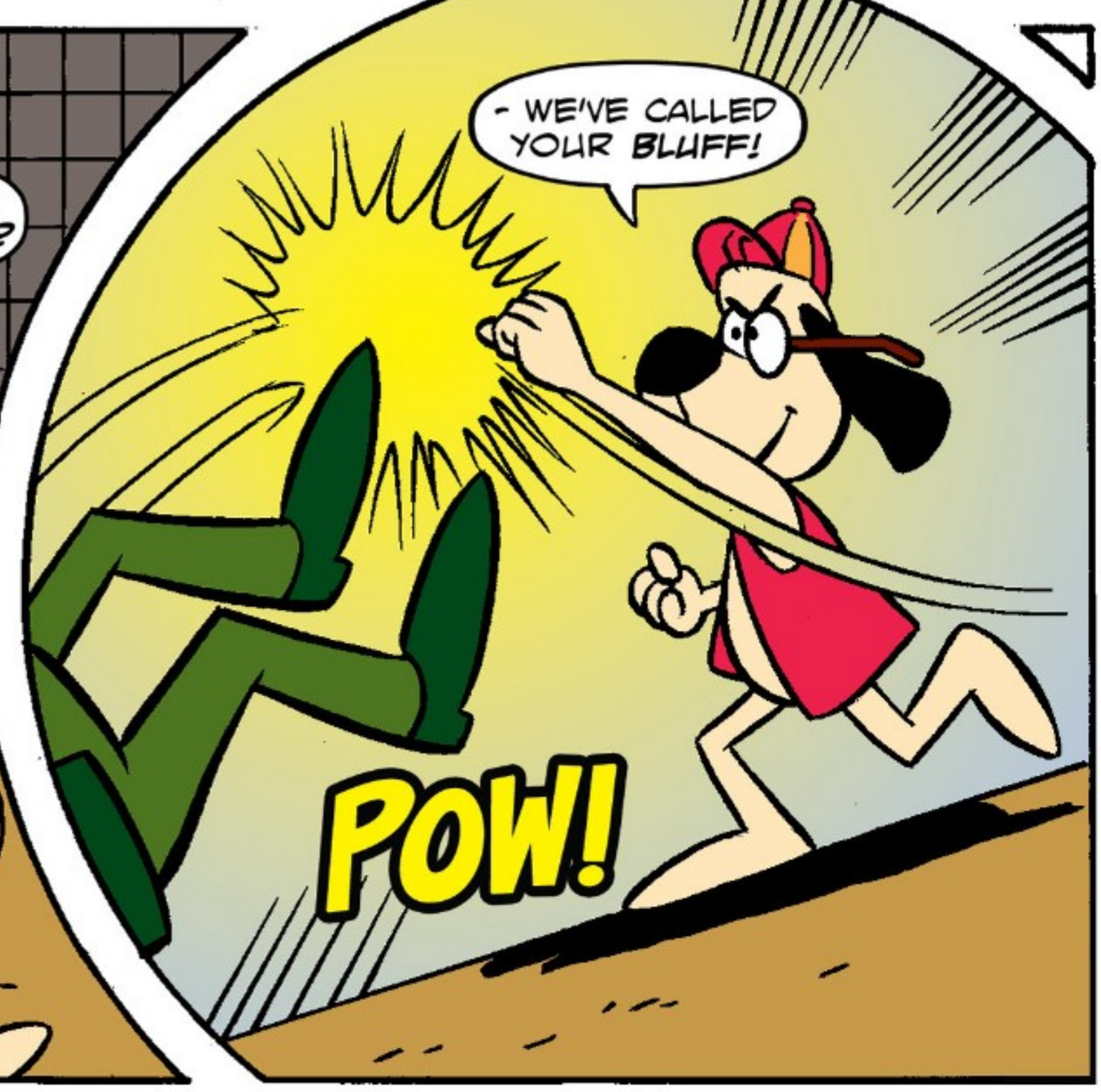
GOTTA TURN INVISIBLE-
AAARGH! I CAN NEVER COMPLETELY TURN INVISIBLE WHEN I NEED TO!!

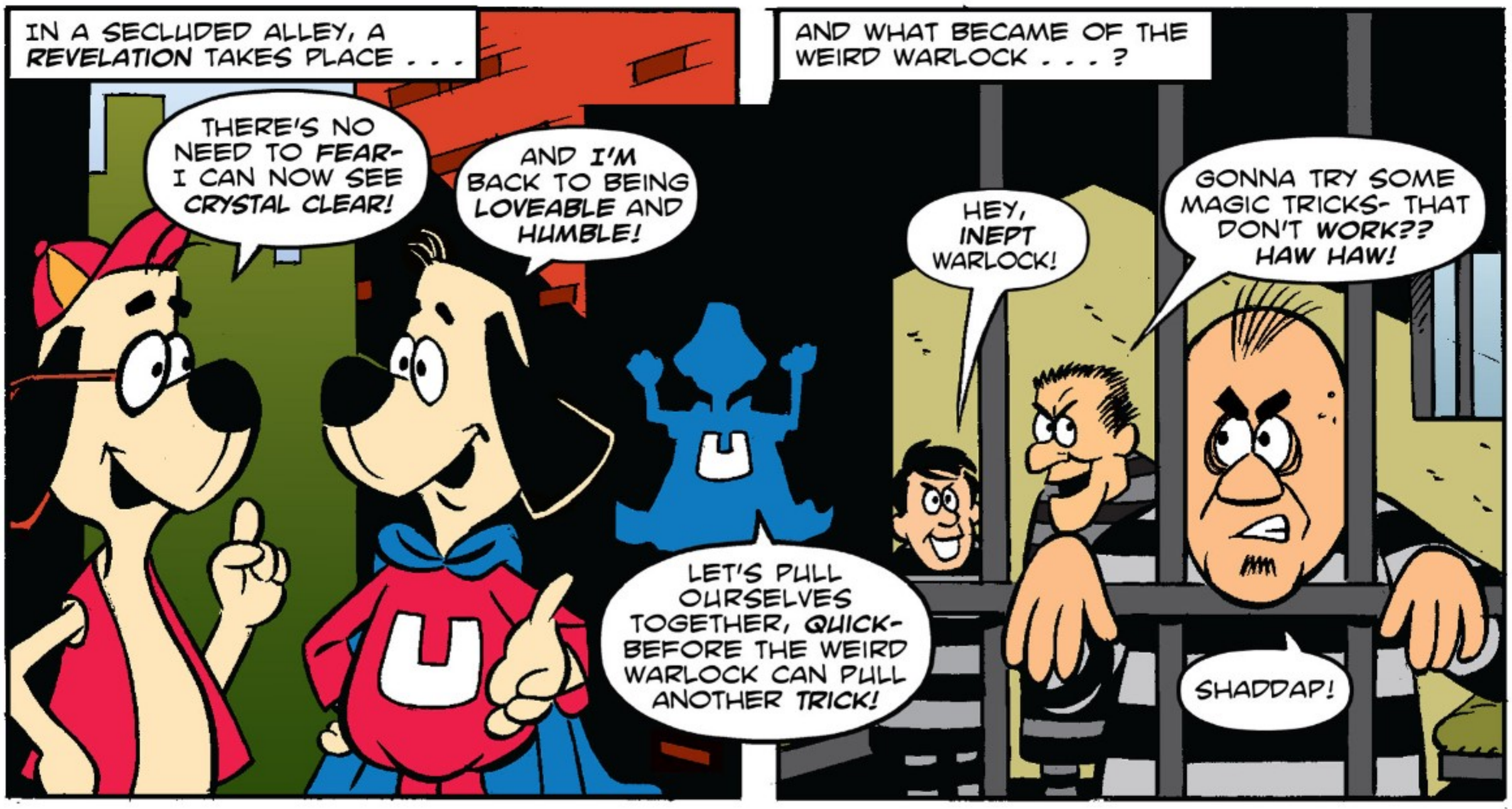
THE JIG IS UP, WEIRD WARLOCK!
IF I CAN'T OUTRUN UNDERDOG-

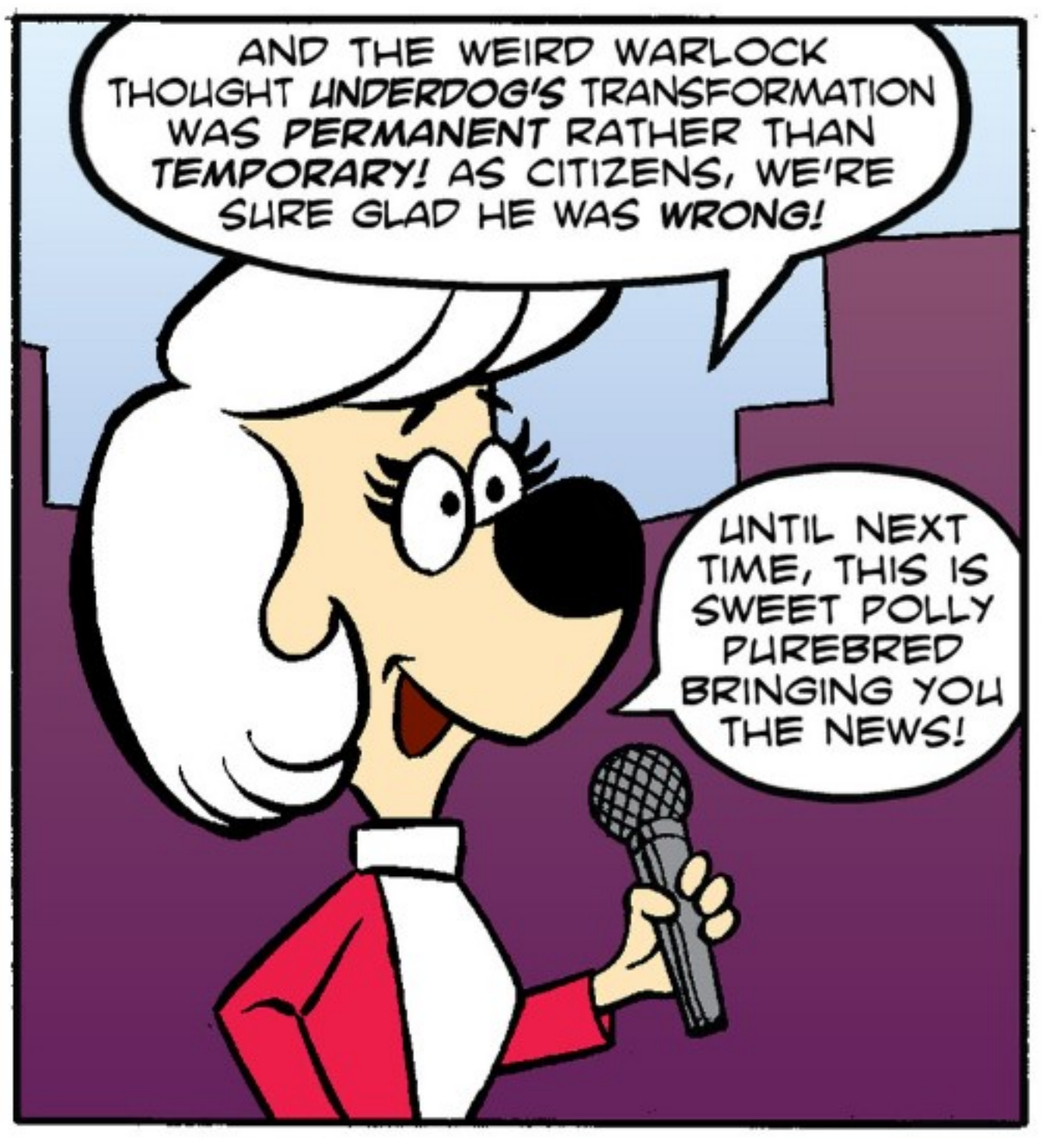
- I'LL DO THE NEXT BEST THING . . . TAKE A HOSTAGE!
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU-

- I BELIEVE THE SITUATION IS WELL OVERDUE!
HEY! WHY ARE YOU DOING THOSE ANNOYING RHYMES LIKE UNDERDOG?? WAIT A MINUTE! "UNDERDOG" HASN'T BEEN DOING THOSE RHYMES TODAY!


THAT'S RIGHT, WEIRD WARLOCK! DUE TO OUR, ER, OUR UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE, WE SWITCHED PLACES!
WAIT! WHAT?
I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH-


- WE'VE CALLED YOUR BLUFF!
POW!


IN A SECLUDED ALLEY, A REVELATION TAKES PLACE . . .
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR- I CAN NOW SEE CRYSTAL CLEAR!
AND I'M BACK TO BEING LOVEABLE AND HUMBLE!
LET'S PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER, QUICK- BEFORE THE WEIRD WARLOCK CAN PULL ANOTHER TRICK!
AND WHAT BECAME OF THE WEIRD WARLOCK . . . ?
HEY, INEPT WARLOCK!
GONNA TRY SOME MAGIC TRICKS- THAT DON'T WORK?? HAW HAW!
SHADDAP!


AND THE WEIRD WARLOCK THOUGHT UNDERDOG'S TRANSFORMATION WAS PERMANENT RATHER THAN TEMPORARY! AS CITIZENS, WE'RE SURE GLAD HE WAS WRONG!
UNTIL NEXT TIME, THIS IS SWEET POLLY PUREBRED BRINGING YOU THE NEWS!

AND, AS THE STATUS QUO IS RESTORED . . .
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A PLANE!
IT'S A BIRD!
IT'S A FROG!
A FROG??

NOT PLANE, NOR BIRD, NOR EVEN FROG! IT'S JUST LITTLE OLD ME-

CRASH!

- UNDERDOG!
END!

SHOESHINE SHENANIGANS AND OTHER SILLY STUFF!

Q: WHAT IS A SUPERHERO'S FAVORITE PART OF THE JOKE?
A: THE "PUNCH" LINE!

A guy goes to his doctor, because there's something that's been bugging him. He tells the doctor, "Doc, I have a very strange habit, and I was wondering if you could help me. You see, every morning, I like to have a cup of coffee with my breakfast, but every day I can't help myself- After I drink the coffee, I eat the mug!"

The doctor asks him,"Do you then eat the mug handle?" "The handle? No way, Doc," the man replies.

The doctor says, "Yes, that is strange. The handle is the best part."

IN A BOOMERANG SHOP: "I'D LIKE TO BUY A NEW BOOMERANG, PLEASE. ALSO, CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO THROW THE OLD ONE AWAY?"

After serving time in jail for his crimes, Riff Raff is finally released from prison. He runs around town yelling, "I'm free! I'm free!"

A little kid walks up to him and says, "So what, mister. I'm 4, but you don't see me making such a racket bragging about it."

Q: WHY DOES UNDERDOG STUDY SCHOOL BOOKS WHILE HE'S FLYING THROUGH THE CLOUDS?

A: BECAUSE HE WANTS TO GET A HIGHER EDUCATION!

Q: WHAT IS THE TALLEST BUILDING IN THE WORLD?

A: THE LIBRARY. BECAUSE IT HAS THE MOST STORIES.

A man asked his friend, "If you could be any superhero, who would it be? The friend replied, "I think I'd be Aluminium Man." The man then asked, "Oh? What would your superpower be?" The friend replied, "Foiling crime."

Q: WHAT'S ORANGE AND SOUNDS JUST LIKE A PARROT?

A: A CARROT.

Q: WHAT'S BLUE AND SMELLS LIKE RED PAINT?

A: BLUE PAINT.

THERE'S TWO FISH IN A TANK. AND ONE SAYS "HOW DO YOU DRIVE THIS THING?"

A grandfather took his family to a theme restaurant where the walls were covered with old movie posters and classic TV memorabilia. He went to the front counter to reserve a table, and when he returned, he found that his ten year-old grandson was staring at a poster of Underdog standing in a phone booth. The boy looked absolutely amazed and puzzled.

"I'll bet you're wondering who that is, aren't you?" he asked his grandson. "I know who that is, Grandpa," the boy replied. "That's Underdog."

"Then why do you look confused?" he asked.

"What's that thing he's standing in?" the boy asked. "That's what we used to use to make phone calls in the old days," the grandpa replied. The boy only looked more confused.

"But it look so big and heavy," said the little boy. "How were you able to lift it up so that you could to take a photo of yourself?"

In 1964, the world was introduced to a beloved canine crimefighter, Underdog, designed by artist Joe Harris.

This book is dedicated to the memory of his enduring artistic contribution.

ADRIAN ROPP